

Harrington Park Environmental Commission
July 6, 2016, 7:30 pm Meeting Minutes

Peter Ardito opened the meeting at 7:34 with the following announcement: In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was made. It was included in the 2016 annual notice posted in the Borough Hall. Copies have been mailed to THE RECORD, NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS, and the NORTH JERSEY SUBURBANITE. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

Roll Call:	Peter Ardito-present	Cindy Kennedy-present
	Mary Ann Schran-present at 7:37	Laura Fitzgerald-present
	Anne Lander-present	Theresa Hazelton-absent
	Joannie Turner-present	

Also present: Mayor Hoelscher and eight members of the public who wished to discuss the proposed bee hives.

Minutes of June 1, 2016 Cindy moved to approve, second Joannie. Joannie, Cindy, and Laura voted yes. Peter and Anne abstained.

Plans for Beekeeping Grant Diane DiGiacomo asked how the community was alerted about the beehives. Peter explained that no special notice was required but that the EC/GT encouraged the coverage in the newspapers as the bees are in danger and the hives would help the bees and town. Two hives will be placed in the most remote part of Columbus Field. The lot is not improved and is used at the permission of the water company, who owns it. The hives will be placed where the two fences meet and be surrounded by fences and a locked gate. The area will be posted. The bees will leave the hive and head southwest, which is over the reservoir. The hive will be maintained every week or so plus 2-3 times per year to check for mites. The bees will be of the European variety (docile and good producers). Peter described the beekeeping course he recently took and explained that the hives were disassembled and although bees were all over he was not stung.

Chris Novak asked whether other towns have hives. Peter explained that he is not aware of other towns having them in public places but that this is being done with a grant obtained for this purpose and that the risk manager is not concerned. The state of NJ supports adding bees.

Ms. Gendron 91 Martha Road voiced concern as she is a walker. Peter explained that the bees leave the hive and fly high in the air. In normal conditions it will not be more dangerous than living close to someone in a flower bed. She asked about kids throwing rocks. Peter explained that the hives will be mostly out of sight; signs will be on fence not out on the street.

Maryann Rockwell asked about the fence; it will be chain link. Peter Rockwell asked about other communities that have hives.

Genevieve Taurino stated that there are several hives at Bergen Community College very close to the Child Development Center and that bees have many benefits for the community.

Maryann Rockwell voiced concern about trucks going in and out and the lawn being cut. Diane DiGiacomo stated that many children play there and someone could be allergic. She also wondered whether children from other towns would come on trips. Peter explained that only HP school children would be brought to the hives. Diane DiGiacomo wondered whether the town could be asked to stop using pesticides.

Chris Novak asked whether the grant was obtained for the hives as a town project (it was) and whether individuals were asked to keep bees; no, this was a town project.

Discussion of the placement of the hives and Ms. Gendron wondered why efforts could not be put into supporting farmland. Maryann Rockwell asked if Peter was pitting one in his yard; he is not, as the neighbors are very close, and Columbus is a safer spot. Diane DiGiacomo voiced concern about the lack of sun and too much water and whether 5 feet was high enough for the fence. She also spoke about vandalism on the tennis court. Peter hoped that parents would explain to children that a fence meant don't go in.

Maryann Rockwell asked about the nature trails and that children should walk and not be bused in. The trails are a thought for the future.

Ms. Gendron stated that people should have permits for beekeeping. Maryann Rockwell said that the sewers by the fence often have a bad smell.

Peter suggested that the fence could match what was already there (in height) and that a net over the top could be explored; he asked whether a 7-foot fence would alleviate concerns.

Green Team Portion of Meeting The GT is again applying for certification and will have to apply during the second round.

ERI Mr. Hakim is pretty much done. Peter will have him send all information to Marti.

Town Day will be discussed in August. The EC/GT table should include information on bees. Cindy suggested having McCaffree do beekeeping seminar for the public.

Trees at Highland Field The Rec Commission will allow trees to be planted. They should be native. Anne will look into.

2016 Recycling Award application This was sent to all of EC. Ideas should be forwarded to Peter as soon as possible.

Treasury Report: As of 5/31/16

Environmental Commission Green Team account balance is 833.19

T-Mobile Tree Escrow is 7089.01

Bergen County Mini Grant is 1200.00

Regular Operating Budget is 100.00

Old Business The townwide garage sale made \$240 for GT, and a composter was sold.

New Business A suggestion was made to add hazardous waste collection to the humus sale. Maybe there can be electronic recycling at Town Day.

Hoboken did “adopt a storm drain.” Maybe HP could do that.

Peter A asked Mark if chips could be brought to the end of the trail for the continuation of the Beechwood path (Peter Francis’ Eagle project).

Adjournment—Next scheduled meeting 8/3/16: Agenda to include cleanup date, ERI and Town Day.